definitely only one breeding season (see Moreau and Benson). It is necessary to examine the gonads of further specimens collected between October and January to have a true picture of the breeding of *A. m. chapini*.

Recently A. De Roo has studied the moult of *A. m. chapini*. His conclusions will be published in detail elsewhere. For some specimens the moult starts in the beginning of February (A. De Roo, *in litt.*). Yet for other birds it begins only in the latter part of April. The moult finishes, for the first specimens, perhaps in the beginning of June, but the first swift in fresh plumage was taken on 8th July. For the others the moult may continue until the middle of August, the last specimen which had not completed its moult having been caught on 2nd August.

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Hybrids of *Thraupis palmarum* and *Thraupis virens*

by F. Haverschmidt

Received 17th August, 1965

On 20th October, 1963 I collected in the forest near Phedra (Surinam-river) Surinam, out of a treetop, a bird which was at first sight intermediate between *Thraupis palmarum* and *Thraupis virens*.

In general coloration it is olive green as in *T. palmarum*, but the wing-coverts are pale blue as in *virens* and on the crown and on its upper and under parts there are bluish feathers among the green ones.

It is a male in non-breeding condition and is now preserved under my field number 6316 in the Leiden Museum.

Dr. G. F. Mees, curator of birds of that institution, confirmed my identification of the bird as a hybrid and he informed me that there were more intermediate specimens in the Leiden Museum where, in June, 1965, I had the opportunity of examining the series of *T. palmarum* and *T. virens*.

The small series of 27 specimens of *palmarum* from different parts of its range contained no less than 10 (including my specimen from Phedra) which are more or less intermediate, but the series of *virens* contained none.

The intermediate birds which must be considered hybrids are: three unsexed specimens from Costa Rica without further data and bought from Schlüter (two of them marked 5652 and the other unmarked) show

a distinct bluish gloss on the wing-coverts and on the back. In the unmarked specimen there is a clear demarcation line between the green crown and the bluish tinge on the back.

Two unsexed specimens from Ecuador without further data and also bought from Schlüter (both of them marked 5652) have a distinct bluish on the crown and on the back.

A male collected on 18th October, 1883 at 2,000 feet on Mount Roraima, British Guiana (no. 3713) by W. L. S. Laat has a bluish back, breast and abdomen. Here too is a striking difference between the green crown and the bluish of the back.

A male in breeding condition collected on 8th October, 1911 at Paramaribo, Surinam by W. C. van Heurn (no. 2326) has a distinct bluish on the back and, though to a lesser extent, on the wing-coverts; there is also a marked difference between the green crown and the bluish on the back.

A male from Bahia with no further data which died in the Zoo at Rotterdam and received at Leiden in November 1923 (no. 5274) has the head pale bluish-grey as in *virens* and a bluish tinge on the wing-coverts.

The most striking of all, however, is a male imported from an unknown locality which died in the Zoo at Rotterdam, which was received at Leiden in February 1924 (no. 5308).

It has the bluish-grey head of *T. virens* and on the upper and under parts including the rump it is partly pale blue and partly olive green. It is indeed so striking as to be almost unbelievable that this specimen was not detected before as a hybrid.

In Surinam both *T. virens* and *T. palmarum* are among the most numerous birds and they are very often feeding in mixed companies.

André Suchetet does not mention in his *Des hybrides sauvages*. Vol. I 1896 any hybrids of these two species.

A. P. Gray lists in her *Bird Hybrids* 1958: 244, though this work is rather incomplete where wild birds are concerned, two hybrids of *T. episcopus* (= *T. virens*) and *T. ornata* which were reared in confinement.

Racial variation in the southern populations of *Caprimulgus rufigena* Smith

by P. A. Clancey

Received 7th September, 1965

Bowen (1930) was the first worker to propose the subdivision of the southern block of populations currently grouped in the nominotypical race of *C. rufigena* Smith, 1845: eastern Cape Province, South Africa, by proposing *C. r. quanzae* Bowen, 1930: Vila General Machado, Bie-Cuando Cubango, Angola. Bowen's Angolan race has not been generally accepted by workers (see in particular Chapin (1939) and Traylor (1960)), but the name has in recent years again come into some prominence through its use by Grant and Mackworth-Praed (1954; 1962) for the populations of northern South-West Africa and Angola.

During the course of a recent study of southern African nightjars, I had cause to examine fairly adequate material of *C. rufigena* from most of its established range in zoogeographical South Africa, the material used being drawn from the collections of the Durban and South African Museums, and the National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo. Critical